

— Capsule Summary
SM-606
Blackistone House
Oakley
Private

c. 1924

The Blackistone House, constructed c. 1924, is a two story, frame dwelling that is a significant example of early-twentieth century rural housing. Situated on a 109 acre tract called "Oakley" and "Mossey Lea," the Blackistone house has been home to the Dent and Blackistone families. In 1924, the original antebellum structure burned to the ground. This older telescoping plan dwelling, which housed a general store as well as a dwelling, was replaced by John F. Dent, Jr. (more affectionately known as "Big Pop") with the presently standing house. This more modern dwelling featured fashionable exterior embellishment coupled with a traditional interior room arrangement.

— According to Bruce Blackistone, the current owner property, the original house burned to the ground on a Sunday when much of the family was at church services. An alert went out and members of the Dent family returned to find their house partially enveloped in flames. Due to the slow moving flames, the family was able to save pieces of furniture and other valuable items before the whole building was consumed. After the fire, the Dent family built a new house on the site of the old one.

— The Blackistone House exhibits distinctively modern construction techniques along with more traditional interior room arrangements. The foundation, for instance, features rusticated concrete block similar to that found on buildings such as St. Paul's Church (SM-274). The porch exhibits an elaborate scroll sawn balustrade similar to that found on the Guyther/Burroughs House (SM-339). The interior, however, features an open, four room plan consisting with a kitchen ell. The ell demonstrates how kitchen spaces remained physically separated from the entertaining functions of the house even into the early to mid-twentieth century in St. Mary's County.

SM-606, Blackistone House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Rural Crossroads

Historic Function and Use:

Residence

Known Design Source:

None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-606

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Oakley

and/or common Blackistone House (pref.)

2. Location

S side of Oakley Rd., 0.1 mile SW of intersection of Oakley Rd. and Burch Rd.
street & number

☐ not for publication

city, town Oakley

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 7

state Maryland

county St. Mary's

TM-39, G-13, P-150

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ida L. Dent Estate, c/o Wade Blackistone (POC: Bruce Blackistone)

street & number 13304 Waterside Circle

telephone no.: 301-769-2627

city, town Germantown

state and zip code Md 20874

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber 11

street & number

folio 422

city, town Leonardtown

state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-606

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: 2

The Blackistone house is approximately 0.1 mile south of the intersection of Burch and Oakley Roads (Maryland Route 470) in Oakley, Maryland. on the south side of Oakley Road (Maryland Route 470). Oriented on a north/south axis, the house is situated on the south side of Oakley Road and virtually surrounded by cultivated fields. Just south of the house is the Dent Tenant House #3 (SM-288) and across Oakley Road is the Oakley Post Office and Store (SM-603).

The Blackistone house, constructed in 1924, is a two story, three bay, double-pile plan dwelling with a gable roof and a rear one story ell. Resting on a rusticated concrete block foundation, the house's exterior walls are sheathed with lap siding attached to the circular sawn frame with wire nails. The roof, pierced by two interior brick chimneys, is covered with asphalt shingles.

The primary or north elevation is pierced on the first floor by three bays -- a centrally located door flanked on either side by a paired set of one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. All of these bays are shaded by a hipped porch supported by four sets of paired square posts. A circular sawn balustrade and railing rims the edges of the porch. The second floor is pierced by two sets of paired one-over-one windows. The roof is pierced by two, pedimented gable dormers which provide light to the attic space. One dormer exhibits a one-over-one sash while the other features a six-over-one window.

The east elevation consists of the side of the ell and the gable end of the main block. The fenestration on the main block's first floor and second floor consists of a centrally located one-over-one window flanked on either side by paired sets of one-over-one windows. The attic story is lit by a six-over-six window. The ell exhibits a door sheltered by a screened-in porch.

The south elevation is composed of the gable end of the rear ell and the side of the main block. The ell is pierced by a single one-over-one window. The main block is pierced on the first and second floors by two, one-over-one windows.

The west elevation consists of the main block's gable end and the side of the ell. The main block's fenestration consists of three one-over-one windows on the first and second floors. The attic story is lit by a six-over-three window. The ell is pierced by a paired set of one-over-one windows and a fixed, six-pane sash.

The interior features a double-pile, open plan. The first floor consists of four rooms and a bathroom. According to Bruce Blackistone, one of these rooms served as a bedroom for John F. Dent, Jr. during a period that he could not traverse the narrow steps to the second floor. The ell features one room which is currently used as a kitchen. The second floor features four bedrooms and provides access to the unfinished attic.

The property also exhibits a contributing meathouse and non-contributing garage. The large meathouse features a braced-frame covered with vertical boards and features a roof of raised-seam metal. The primary entrance is on the north side. The interior is blackened and the ties feature nails and nail holes for the hanging of meats.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-606

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Blackistone House, constructed c. 1924, is a two story, frame dwelling that is a significant example of early-twentieth century rural housing. Situated on a 109 acre tract called "Oakley" and "Mossey Lea," the Blackistone house has been home to the Dent and Blackistone families. In 1924, the original antebellum structure burned to the ground. This older telescoping plan dwelling, which housed a general store as well as a dwelling, was replaced by John F. Dent, Jr. (more affectionately known as "Big Pop") with the presently standing house. This more modern dwelling featured fashionable exterior embellishment coupled with a traditional interior room arrangement.

According to Bruce Blackistone, the current owner property, the original house burned to the ground on a Sunday when much of the family was at church services. An alert went out and members of the Dent family returned to find their house partially enveloped in flames. Due to the slow moving flames, the family was able to save pieces of furniture and other valuable items before the whole building was consumed. After the fire, the Dent family built a new house on the site of the old one. During recent digging in his front yard, Mr. Blackistone found a layer of soil charred by fire, further substantiating the story.

The Blackistone House exhibits distinctively modern construction techniques along with more traditional interior room arrangements. The foundation, for instance, features rusticated concrete block similar to that found on buildings such as St. Paul's Church (SM-274). The porch exhibits an elaborate scroll sawn balustrade similar to that found on the Guyther/Burroughs House (SM-339). The interior, however, features an open, four room plan consisting with a kitchen ell. The ell demonstrates how kitchen spaces remained physically separated from the entertaining functions of the house even into the early to mid-twentieth century in St. Mary's County.

The historic landscape around the house remains adequately preserved. Several dwellings including the Dent Tenant House #3 (SM-228) as well as the Oakley Post Office/Frank Ellis Store (SM-603) are all visually linked adequately recalling Oakley's role as a late-nineteenth century rural service center.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-606

Interview, Bruce Blackistone, December, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres around houseQuadrangle name Leonardtown, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoningdate February, 1998street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-606, Blackistone House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber JMM 11, Folio 422

Grantee: John Francis Dent

Grantor: Fannie Jo Dent, Ruth Dent Burch & Elliot E. Burch, and Lettie Marshall Dent

Date: February 1939

Notes: After Fannie L. Dent dies, her heirs decide to sell the property to John Francis Dent. The property, called Mossey Lea, consists of two properties one containing 100 and the other 150 acres.

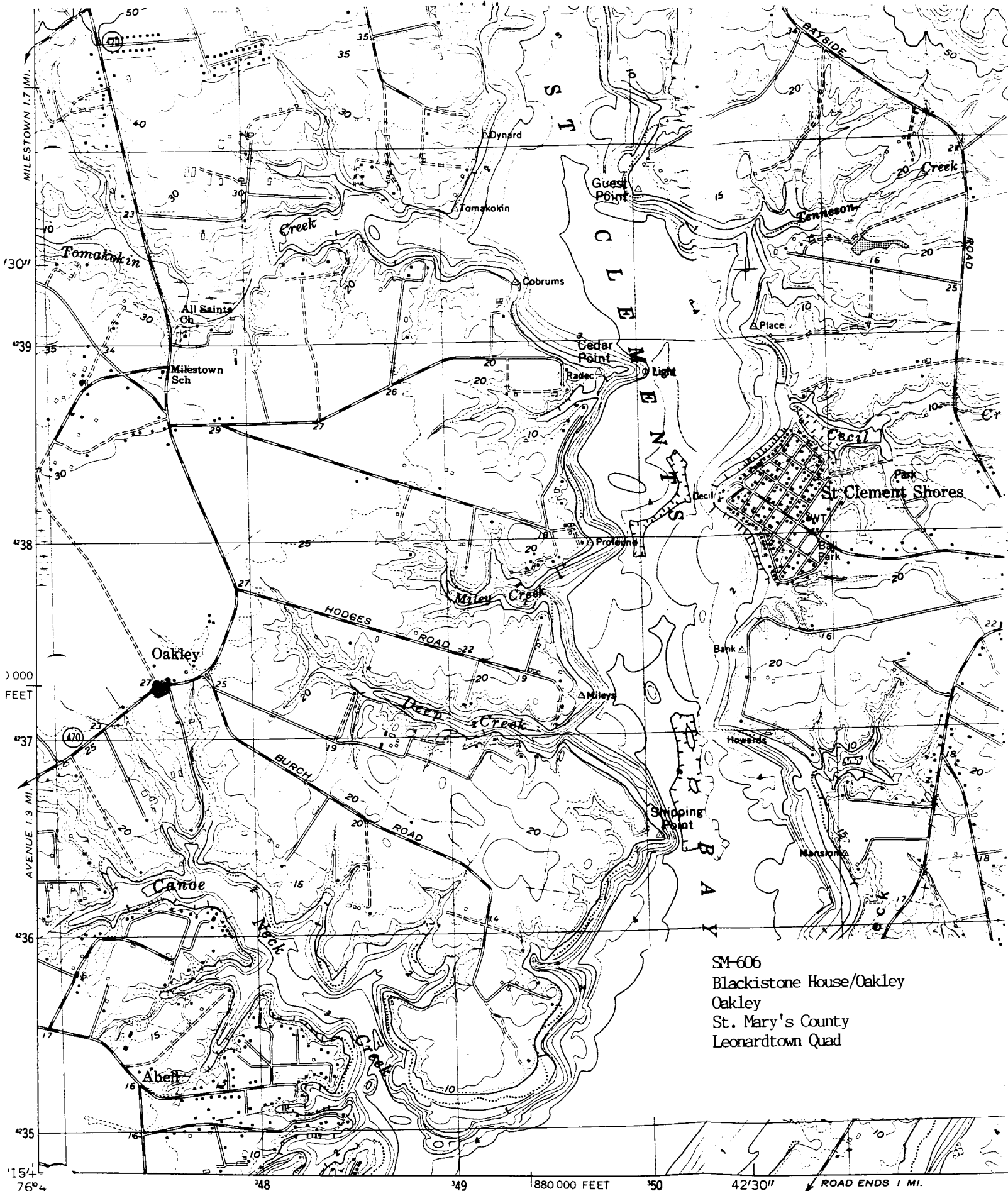
Reference: Liber JMM 10, Folio 229

Grantee: Fannie L. Dent

Grantor: Frances Katherine and Ida Louise Dent

Date: May 19, 1937

Notes: After the death of J. Marshall Dent (Will Record Liber MLC 1, Folio 154), the two tracts are sold by his heirs to Fannie L. Dent. J. Marshall Dent had received the properties from his father John F. Dent (Will Record Liber PHD 1, Folio 32).



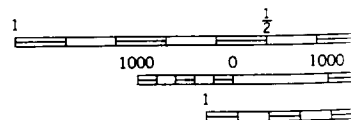
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
and the National Ocean Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1961. Field checked 1963

Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Survey from tide-coordinated
hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for use in navigation.

NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX





SM-606

Blackstone House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec/97

MD SAPO

N+H elevations

1 of 2



